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## AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

*From the 20th September to the 20th October, 1813.*

THE fine weather which set in about the middle of last month continued with very little intermission for several weeks, and afforded a good opportunity to secure the grain. Some heavy rains have fallen in the course of the last two weeks, but the greater part happening at night, very little interruption was occasioned to finishing the last of the harvest in the late districts.

The business of raising the potato crops seems now to occupy the principal attention of the farmers; a few nights frost having completely destroyed the stalks, there can be no good end answered by letting them remain longer in the ground, when the soil is sufficiently dry to allow the roots to be taken out clean. The practice of raising potatoes by the plough is beginning to make its way among the farmers; the expedition with which it can be done, and the small expence attending it, are circumstances which ought to give it a decided preference over every other mode, since it is well known to every farmer who cultivates any considerable quantity of land, that the difficulty of procuring labourers, and the great expence their wages occasion, are serious obstacles to his progress, and a great drawback on the profits of his farm.

The prices of grain have rather lowered within the last three weeks, but are a little on the rise again.

## COMMERCIAL REPORT.

COMMERCIAL Reporters, to give a faithful representation of the present state of trade, must, at the risque of repetition, even to satiety, pronounce it again and again to be in a sickly condition: for the partial and apparent revivals partake more of the unequal accession of fever, than of a healthful action. The war deranges the steady progress of commercial enterprize, and completely "puts the times out of joint." Yet no class of men are more under the war-mania, and the unnatural dread of peace, from the erroneous idea that under present circumstances it is impracticable, than merchants. Perhaps the uncertainties attendant on the present state of trade, by giving hopes and fears, furnish a zest similar to that felt by gamblers; for the operations of commerce are too often assimilated to the fluctuations of a gambling speculation.\*

\* The following remarks on commerce, as connected with war, are extracted from the Liverpool Mercury. They show at least that our opinions are not singular.

"Commerce is undoubtedly in itself a great national benefit. It may perhaps be safely asserted, that no people were ever truly enlightened and independent without it. To that self-confidence which is fostered by trade, Britain owes the establishment of some of the best principles of her constitution. Trade empowered the man who held no landed property, to contend against the subjections of the feudal law, and gradually to grow into a participation of all those rights, which the British constitution had, at first, bestowed rather partially, than generally. It is, therefore, not against the commercial spirit that we contend, but against that commercial monopoly, which is maintained by an expensive and sanguinary war, which, connected with the finances of the state, becomes a support of public corruption; a commercial monopoly of which the capital subsists only in floating paper, itself sustained by forcible acts of the legislature, and which is, nevertheless, daily depreciating: it is against such a system that our pens are directed, because while it lasts, we are persuaded, that such trade as really conduces to our national prosperity can never be obtained.

"It has been one of the leading objects with Bonaparte to destroy the trade of this country with the continent, and to accomplish that point, he has resorted to the most arbitrary and tyrannical procedure. As far as his power or his influence could be extended he has striven to extinguish all commercial interests, in any way connected with the commerce of Britain. His continued successes had given audacity to his despotism, and

At the late linen market in Dublin not much business was done. Owing to the scarcity of water at the bleach-greenes, the usual quantity of fresh goods was not sent forward. The sale of fine linens was very dull. The coarser kinds sold rather readily, and at tolerable prices for the sellers. Previously to the market, some pretty considerable shipments of fine linens had taken place from Dublin for Spain.

Exchange on London has declined this month, its general average having been about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , and  $5$  per cent. This low exchange is felt in a declining trade, especially on linens, for otherwise things would soon find their level, and exchange would be merely a matter of calculation, and if profit did not accrue from the exchange, it would be laid on more directly by an additional percentage in the usual rate of charging. But in a state of trade, in which sales are difficult, and every advance is minutely watched and noticed, an additional penny per yard is not easily procured. With regard to other exports, as being able to bear greater burdens without suffering a diminution of sales, the low rate of exchange does not bear so heavily. On imports, low exchange, if it really have any effect, operates favourably. Therefore, in a national point of view, the low rate of exchange is not so disadvantageous, as they who are temporarily affected by it may suppose; for after all, perhaps on a thorough examination of the question, on the enlightened principles of political economy, exchange is more a matter of calculation, than of real difference. On a change taking place, an expert calculator will for a time have the advantage, but soon trade finds its own level, and matters become equalized, as well between buyers and sellers, as between nations, which are only aggregations of individuals. If exchange is low, exporting merchants, under common circumstances, soon rate their articles higher, and importers are gradually forced to sell lower, without materially altering their profits in either case. It is only when exchange is fluctuating, and before the vibrations of the balance are settled, that gain or loss by the course of exchange, in general cases, happens, provided trade is in a healthy state, is not affected by the injuries arising from war, or one or both of the countries do not labour under the inconveniences of a depreciated circulating medium. Metallic money has a fixed conventional value, nearly alike in all commercial countries, but paper is uncertain, bills to be paid in paper money, partake of the same nature, and among other inconveniences, they almost always entail the evils of a continually fluctuating exchange. Exchange between Eng-

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he for some time dictated the regulations of trade in almost every sea-port on the continent. Such a stretch of oppression roused every court against him, and it is this that gives our ministers the presence to assert, that the war on the continent is maintained for the rights of British commerce. But has there been no period in which peace with France might have thrown commerce into its more extended and natural channels? Has it never happened that the corrupt part of the British Government has dreaded peace; lest peace should liberate trade from ministerial controul, and again fester the principles of freedom? We condemn the tyranny of Bonaparte, and as far as the resistance of one despot to the undue interference of another can interest us, so far do we consider the present situation of the continent to be worthy our attention; but, while the powers of Russia and Prussia are applauded for rising against the commercial tyranny of Bonaparte, in what scale are we to weigh the irritation of the American States against the Orders in Council, and other commercial edicts of our own Government? Fairly estimated, this long, this sanguinary war, has had for its object, on one side or other, commercial oppression.

"The consequences of this contention of the continental powers against Bonaparte, are, indeed, already felt in a considerable revival of British trade. This was to be expected, because the ports of Russia, Prussia, and Sweden, would be immediately opened to the British merchant. We sincerely rejoice at any commercial benefits which this country is so eminently capable of deriving from its intercourse with other nations; but we can never consider that commerce as a national advantage, which may owe its temporary existence to war. The gains of individuals are outweighed by taxes upon the public: the elevation of a few is counterbalanced by the extensive waste of treasure and of blood. We wish to see the commerce of our country secured and fostered by peace."

land and Ireland is partially affected from this cause, but the exchange between England and the continent of Europe, and also with America, before the folly of statesmen produced a war, is most materially deranged by the depreciation of the bank paper.

At the commencement of the depreciation, when the national banks ceased to pay in specie, Ireland first felt the effects, and exchange rose to 17, 18, and 19 per cent. Now partly owing to an extension of exports, and partly perhaps to some circumstances not fully ascertained, arising from the difference between the paper issues of the two countries, exchange is at present on the opposite extreme. If parliament should be petitioned to relieve the inconvenience now felt by the linen merchants, it will probably be ultimately found, that legislative interference can effect as little in this case, as parliament was able to do in restoring value to paper, when the dangerous experiment was hazarded of making it a legal tender, and which measure proved totally ineffectual to stop its downward tendency.

Another step in the progress of depreciation may be seen in bank notes, as compared with silver, generally bearing a discount of 6d. in the pound, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the transactions of retail trade. Some may allege this premium on silver arises from considerations of convenience, and not from any effects caused by depreciation. But let it be considered, that the bank of Ireland has latterly taken in as much of their old silver coinage as came in their way, and issued their new tenpenny-pieces of a smaller size, and yet even this reduced currency gains on paper. The depreciation of paper causes bullion to rise, and from the high price of bullion, the bank cannot afford to issue more silver. Thus by no very remote steps, the scarcity of silver may be traced to the depreciation of paper. Gold has lately fallen 4s. per oz. in London, owing to some importation of bullion in the way of trade from France.

#### NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From the 20th September to the 20th October, 1813.*

- Sept. 28, Elder leaved Dahlia (*Dahlia Sambucifolia*), flowering.  
 Oct. 1, Bernicle or Brent Goose (*Anas Bernicla*), for sale in Belfast market. None of the common Swallows have appeared for some days.  
 12, Red Wings (*Turdus Iliacus*), arrived.  
 18, Saw several Swallows flying about; most of them were young ones, not having got the long lateral feathers at their tails.  
 19, Some Swallows yet remaining.

#### METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

*From the 20th September to the 20th October, 1813.*

- Sept. 29—50,.....Fine days.  
 Oct. 1—3,.....Fine days.  
 4,.....Very wet day.  
 5,.....Dry.  
 7,.....Misty morning. Fine day.  
 8,.....Wet day.  
 9—10,.....Some Rain.  
 11,.....Fine day, with only a few drops of rain.  
 12,.....Trifling showers.  
 13,.....Some showers.  
 14,.....Some showers, mountain tops whitened.  
 15,.....Heavy showers.  
 16,.....Heavy showers during the day, and very heavy rain during the night.  
 17,.....Fine breezy day.  
 18—20,.....Fine days.

The Thermometer was on the 21st of September and 6th of October, at 8, A.M. as high as 58. On the 12th of October, it was at 43; on the 13th, at  $41\frac{1}{2}$ ; on the 14th, at 42; on the 18th, at 40; on the 19th at 55.